Wizard rock

Wizard rock (sometimes shortened as **Wrock**) is a genre of rock music that developed between 2002 and 2004 in the United States. Wizard rock bands are characterized by their performances and humorous novelty songs about the *Harry Potter* universe.[1][2] Wizard rock initially started in Massachusetts with Harry and the Potters, though it has grown internationally.[3][4]

Wizard rock	
Stylistic origins	*Harry Potter* series · geek rock · emo
Cultural origins	Early 2000s (decade), United States
Typical instruments	Guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals
Regional scenes	
Global, but centered in the US	
Other topics	
DIY ethic, Filk music	

Contents

Characteristics

History

Notable groups

See also

External links

References

Bibliography

Further reading

Characteristics

Leading bands in this genre include Harry and the Potters and Draco and the Malfoys.[5] Although most listeners of the genre are fans of *Harry Potter*, some bands have attracted listeners outside of the books' fanbase.[6] Wizard rock songs are often written from the point of view of a particular character in the books, usually the character who features in the band's name. In contrast to mainstream bands that have some songs incorporating literary references among a wider repertoire of music (notably Led Zeppelin to *The Lord of the Rings*),[7] wizard rock bands take their inspiration entirely from the *Harry Potter* universe.[8] When performing live, wizard rock bands often cosplay, or dress as, characters from the novels.[8] Some bands perform at fan conventions.[9]

History

The earliest Harry Potter-themed song is conventionally traced to 2000 when the Los Angeles-based pop-punk band Switchblade Kittens released an "Ode to Harry" from the perspective of Ginny Weasley.[11][12] Harry and the Potters originated the Harry Potter-themed band which became the genesis of a fandom-centered genre of music called wizard rock.[11][13] As Harry and the Potters increased in popularity, other wizard rock bands started to emerge. Brian Ross and Bradley Mehlenbacher originally conceived Draco and the Malfoys as a parody of Harry and the Potters, who were performing at a local house party. In April 2005, Matt Maggiacomo invited Harry and the Potters to play at an all-Harry Potter show at his Rhode Island home. That night, Maggiacomo made his debut as *The Whomping Willows*, and his friends, Mehlenbacher and his brother, Brian Ross, played for the first time as *Draco and the Malfoys*.[14][3][15]

There are also festivals focused on the genre such as Wrockstock, which was first held in 2007 in the United States.[10][16]

The Parselmouths, a wizard rock band consisting of Brittany Vahlberg and Kristina Horner, perform during Wrockstock in 2007, displaying the *Harry Potter* themed costumes common within the genre.[10]

Notable groups

Notable wizard rock bands include: Draco and the Malfoys,[15] Harry and the Potters,[13] Fresh Dumbledore, MC Kreacher,[17] Ministry of Magic,[18] The Moaning Myrtles,[19] The Mudbloods,[18] The Parselmouths,[20] Tonks and the Aurors,[21] and the Whomping Willows.[15][21]

See also

- *Harry Potter* fandom
- Filk
- Middle-earth music

External links

- Fanlore.org page about wizard rock (https://fanlore.org/wiki/Wizard_Rock)
- Your Wizard Rock Resource, a comprehensive database of bands and lyrics (https://yourwizardrockresource.wordpress.com/)

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